

Maryland Gazette.

VOL. LXXXII.

ANNAPOLIS, Thursday, June 7, 1827.

No. 23.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED

BY
Jonas Green,
CHURCH-STREET, ANNAPOLIS.

Price—Three Dollars per annum.

From the N. York Com. Adv.
AMERICAN SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION.

The third anniversary of this institution was celebrated on Tuesday the 22nd ult. in the Rev. Dr. Wilson's Church, in Philadelphia. A friend of ours, who was present, has communicated the following:—

At the appointed hour (4 o'clock) the church was crowded with a highly respectable audience. In the pulpit, I observed the Rev. Dr. Green, of Philadelphia; Dr. Hillyer, of Orange, New Jersey; the Rev. Ezra Stiles Ely, of Philadelphia; and the Rev. Mr. Doughty, of the M. E. Church. On the platform erected for the occasion, were the officers and managers, and the gentlemen selected to address the meeting. In the front gallery were about two hundred females, selected from the several Sunday Schools, who sang andode and hymn written by Mr. W. B. Tappan. In the rear of the young ladies, a number of gentlemen were standing, who took the base and counter parts of the tunes; and I must be permitted to remark, that never heard singing which appeared to have such a powerful effect upon a congregation: it was the most harmonious concord of sweet sounds, I ever listened to. The exercises commenced with an address to the Throne of Grace, by the Rev. Dr. Hillyer, after which the following ode was sung:

God, our God, his power revealing,
In this latter harvest time—
Bless his Sun, with wings of healing,
Rise on each bright gleam:
See the vale and humbled mountain,
Rolls his conquering car to days;
See his brightness like a fountain,
Flooding all the glad highway.
By the Mission Ships that wander,
Messengers to every sea,
By his servants toiling yonder,
Where stern idols claim the knee—
Bibles, news of peace declaring,
To the wretch by sin undone,
Tracts, obedient missive, bearing
Liberty to thralldom's son.
By the tender mercies glowing,
Where reign'd hatred and misrule;
And the thousand blessings flowing
From his chosen Sunday School;
Rejoice in his night dispelling,
Bidding grace in rivers flow,
From Antaretic to the dwelling
Of the lowly Esquimaux.
Wake the harp, ye angels! ever
Warble, ye melodious choirs!
Sing, ye minstrels, yet never
With redemption thrill those wires,
'Tis our song, and all your glory,
Starry crowns and hymns above,
Fate, while children lips the story
Of a saviour's dying love.

The Treasurer's report was then read, from which it appeared that the receipts, during the past year amounted to \$27,752 73—and that the expenditures were nearly equal to the receipts. The Rev. Doctor Ely read the Managers' Report. It was a very long and interesting document, and listened to with profound attention. I had not means with me of taking notes, and indeed, it was almost made up of figures, which rendered it impracticable to follow the reader, with any thing like correctness. If I mistake not, the report stated, that at the present time the American Sunday School Union, have under its care, one hundred and fifty-nine thousand two hundred and fifty-six children, taught by two thousand two hundred and nine teachers, and that the schools number two thousand four hundred and fifteen. During the past year, it has been ascertained that fourteen hundred and eighty-one, have experienced change of heart, and have attached themselves to some religious denomination; of this number seven hundred and twenty-three were teachers, teachers, and seven hundred and fifty-eight were scholars. From the commencement of this union to the present period, five thousand four hundred and eighty-one have professed the religion of Christ, and have had their names enrolled on the Church books. The first year that this Society was established, the receipts were only \$435, and they did little more than sustain their Constitution and a few less—but to quote the language of one of the Speakers, "What has God wrought!" Their receipts last year were nearly \$28,000—they have 362 teachers, and have printed upwards of six millions of copies of interesting works suitable for Sunday Schools. Besides this, the Society has been enabled to purchase, by the liberality of

friends, resident in Philadelphia, suitable buildings, (at an expense of \$34,000) to carry on, on a more extended scale their operations.

The school in the state of New York attached to this Union, are 732, governed by 6113 superintendents and teachers, and having under their charge 43,912 scholars. Six hundred and fifty two of this number have, during the past year, become Church members.

After the following hymn had been sung, the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Green:

U'nion prevails in heaven, from Him
Who all its spangled sheet unroll'd
Down to the flaming cherubim
That veil his face with wings of gold.

U'nion is written on each star,
That walks in music as it shines;
And the dim world is that host afar,
Revealing its track in living lines.

In U'nion have our fathers plac'd
The stone that God will not forbid;
Polish'd and sure—whereon is bas'd
The Sunday Schools fair pyramid.

In U'nion went the cloud of prayer,
Thine embassy, to yonder skies;
Flaming, and yet accepted there,
For God approved the sacrifice.

O, Thou! that send'st blessings down,
The hearing and the answering One!
Smile on their toil, and give the crown,
And give the world to Christ thy Son!

Portrait of Lady Byron and her Daughter.

I knew a great deal of Lady B. when she lived at—, I forget the name of the place now, but it is not far from Bromley, and thought her a woman of masculine understanding, and great conversational powers, and strong natural good sense, but not altogether the wife for Lord Byron. She showed her admiral sense of propriety by the seclusion to which she consigned herself, and the dignified silence she invariably maintained respecting what may be termed her case. I believe, to her most intimate associates, Lady Byron never betrayed her husband's name; never alluded, in the most casual manner, to her own peculiar situation. On the contrary, she appeared studiously to avoid all reference to the subject. Her daughter, Ada Byron, to whom such touching interest attaches strongly resembles her gifted father. There is, in particular, an expression about her mouth—a curl, when she is displeased, in her youthful lip—a fire and fierie in her eye—which those who had ever an opportunity of watching the poet's features, in a moment of irritation, would instantly recognize. The likeness is singularly striking. It is hardly fair to judge of her at such tender years; but I thought I discovered germs of talents, and—shall I add—a spice of Lord Byron's disposition—a large leaven of self-indulgence and self-will. Lady Byron was passionately attached to her, and paid the most vigilant attention to those grand essentials in a woman's happiness—temper and disposition. There was one thing in particular which struck me very forcibly. It is a rule worthy the adoption of every mother. I had dined alone with Sir Ralph and herself; little Ada was with us at tea; but at its conclusion, Lady Byron rose and said, "You must excuse me, I always give an hour to my daughter every night, before she goes to bed, when we talk over the events of the day. I find it by far the best hour in the 24 for affecting and correcting the heart!" If she was "learned" and "mathematical," most assuredly it never appeared in her conversation. It was that, and that only, of a highly accomplished and well informed woman. An incident occurred—I don't choose to divulge it, which was perfectly conclusive to my mind that Lady Byron was still fondly attached to him. And from the account of others who knew the facts, I am thoroughly satisfied that Lord and Lady Byron might have been living together at this very hour, had his life been spared, but for the intervention of a third person. Lady Noel never could endure him; and the feeling was reciprocal. She was perpetually haunted by the idea that his Lordship was an unfaithful husband. On the other hand, he never spared her; and unhappily, Lady Noel's temper and unguarded expression afforded ample scope for the most biting satire and caustic irony. Whatever his Lordship might have been previous to his marriage, or since the separation, in the particular instance so continually quoted, he was grossly misrepresented. I

have reason to believe, though not from her own lips, that Lady Byron now feels this.—The Living and the Dead.

From the National Gazette.
LETTER

To William Roscoe, esq. of Toxteth Park, near Liverpool.

However painful it may be to differ in opinion from a gentleman of venerable age and large experience—of distinguished and various attainments—and of acknowledged benignity of mind, I am nevertheless impelled by a sense of duty to dissent from some of the conclusions which I have met with in a pamphlet, for which I am indebted to thy kindness, and which was transmitted to me by the last Packet, entitled, "A brief statement of the causes which have led to the abandonment of the celebrated system of penitentiary discipline, in some of the United States of America, &c. by William Roscoe, esquire.

Except in the defence of valuable and important principles, I should ever desire to avoid controversy; and if I did not believe that through a singular misconception of the design and efforts now employed to perfect the penal code and prison discipline of Pennsylvania, well settled doctrines were improperly assailed, and rendered liable to popular disaffection, merely because they were not generally understood, I would have foreborne addressing myself thus publicly to thy attention, and to the notice of the citizens of my native State.

In a free scrutiny which this subject demands, I may perhaps betray an earnestness which it is difficult for me to disguise, when my judgment and feelings are enlisted, but I am sure I shall not intentionally transcend the bounds of perfect respect so eminently due to thy character.

Before I proceed to notice those parts of the essay in question, which appear to me to be very objectionable, I take great pleasure in admitting to the utmost extent, the opinions advanced in several of its introductory passages. Among these, I fully believe that a criminal retains all his natural rights, except so far as he is legally divested of them—that moral and religious treatment of convicts, with a view to their reformation, ought to be mainly regarded, and conscientiously administered—that the severity used to maintain the discipline of the Penitentiary at Auburn, in the State of New York, is utterly unjustifiable, and will fail to yield any but the pernicious results—and, finally, that the benign precepts and sacred obligations of Christianity, must influence and control all successful exertions to restore to virtue this class of our erring fellow men, as well as rule every other availing endeavour for promoting the security and happiness of human society.

The pamphlet asserts, that in Philadelphia, where for more than forty years some of its most enlightened, judicious and estimable inhabitants have been assiduously engaged to carry these excellent principles into operation "the celebrated system of penitentiary discipline has been abandoned," and in its place solitary confinement is to be submitted, "the most inhuman and unnatural that the cruelty of a tyrant ever invented, no less derogatory to the character of human nature than it is in direct violation of the leading principles of Christianity," p. 24.

Here allow me to remark, that the first position assumed has no foundation whatever in fact; and the second, which is true, is attempted to be disposed of by high and solemn denunciation, as inapplicable as it is unkind, and wholly unmerited.

From the earliest period of their labours, as my "Notices of the original and successive efforts to Reform the Penal Code," a copy of which is in thy possession, will abundantly manifest, the founders of the celebrated system of penitentiary discipline were convinced, that the solitary confinement of criminals was the only effectual mode of treating them. But until buildings suitable for carrying their plans into complete effect could be provided, the County Prison, though in many respects unfit for their purposes, served, with some alterations, to illus-

trate the advantages of the new over the old method of punishing convicts. The galleys, excepting for one offence—the pillory—the whipping post, and other ignominious penalties invented in a cruel age, were, by the exertions of the benevolent men to whom I have alluded, no longer permitted to disgrace Pennsylvania.

Instead of keepers armed with weapons of death and flagellation, prepared to destroy, or to inflict corporal chastisement, as they might deem either merited—instead of the most humiliating and disgusting spectacle of human degradation, misery and pollution, which the unrestrained association of all persons of ages, colours and sexes, and for all grades of crime, that for many years anterior to the revolutionary war, was exhibited in the common jail of this city—by the unwearied labours of a few pious theopists, that lawless reign of severity, immorality and wrong, was brought to an end. The prisoners were classified and employed as far as it was practicable, in comparative order and decency of conduct were introduced, altogether furnishing an instance of melioration and improvement which no country in this respect had ever before shown.

Happy as these results were admitted to be, and much as they entitled those who were instrumental in producing them, to the respect and gratitude of mankind, yet the actors in this work of mercy were convinced, that the perfection of prison discipline—its primary great purpose, which they steadily kept in view—the reformation of the subjects of it, greatly if not wholly depended upon their separate confinement. This principle they then avowed, and have ever since continued to advocate under a firm conviction, derived from long and careful observation, that any association of convicts would deprave those who were allowed to partake of it.

To induce the legislature to construct edifices, adapted to the separate confinement of the prisoners, was the earnest and repeated solicitation of the members of the Prison Society, as well as other citizens who became interested in the subject; and they ultimately succeeded in procuring laws which provided for the erection of Penitentiaries upon this principle, and for this express purpose, in the eastern and western extremities of the state. Those Penitentiaries are accordingly so planned and built, and at a much greater expense, than would otherwise have been required.

Let it not then be said, and credited, that the celebrated system of Penitentiary discipline has been abandoned, in Pennsylvania, when proof so conclusive is brought to establish the fact, that the genuine original system yet remains to be carried into full effect.

On taking leave of this branch of the subject, I will appeal to thy candour, and to that of every other man, whether it can be believed that gentlemen whose Christian benevolence, and untiring perseverance conferred upon suffering humanity the vast benefits I have enumerated, could be capable of suggesting a mode of punishment, "the most inhuman and unnatural that the cruelty of a tyrant ever invented."

It is very evident to my mind, that the true nature of the separate confinement which is proposed, requires explanation. I will therefore endeavour to describe, what is intended by its friends. Previously, however, it ought to be understood, that the chambers and yards provided for the prisoners, are like any thing but those dreary, and fearful abodes, which the pamphlet before me would represent them to be, "destined to contain an epitome and concentration of all human misery, of which the Bastille of France, and the Inquisition of Spain, were only prototypes and humble models."—p. 25.

The rooms of the new Penitentiary at Philadelphia are fire proof, of comfortable dimensions, with convenient courts to each, built on the surface of the ground—judiciously lighted from the roof—well ventilated and warmed, and ingeniously provided with means for affording a

• The exact size of the chambers is 8 feet by 12 feet, the highest point of the ceiling 16 feet. The yards are 8 feet by 20 feet.

continual supply of excellent water, to ensure the most perfect cleanliness of every prisoner, and his apartment. They are, moreover, so arranged as to be inspected, and protected, without a military guard, usually though unnecessarily employed in establishments of this kind, in most other states.

In these chambers no individual however humble, or elevated, can be confined, so long as the public liberty shall endure, but upon conviction of a known and well defined offence, by the verdict of a jury of the country, and under the sentence of a court, for a specified time. The terms of imprisonment it is believed can be apportioned to the nature of every crime with considerable accuracy, and will no doubt be measured in that merciful degree, which has uniformly characterised the modern penal legislation of Pennsylvania. Where then, allow me to inquire, is there in this system the least resemblance to that dreadful receptacle constructed in Paris, during the reign of Charles the Fifth, and which at different periods through four centuries and a half, was an engine of oppression, and torture, to thousands of innocent persons; or by what deterioration can it be compared to the inquisitorial courts and prisons, that were instituted in Italy, Portugal, and Spain, between the years 1251 and 1337.

With such accommodations I have mentioned, and with the moderate duration of imprisonment contemplated on the Pennsylvania plan, I cannot admit the possibility of the consequences which thy pamphlet predicts, "that a great number of individuals will probably be put to death by the superinduction of diseases inseparable from such mode of treatment, p. 25.—I do not apprehend either the physical maladies, so vividly portrayed, or the mental sufferings, which with equal confidence it is promised, shall "cause the mind to rush back upon itself, and drive reason from her seat, p. 25. On the contrary it is my belief that less bodily indisposition, and less mortality will attend separate confinement, than imprisonment upon the present method, for which some reasons might be given that it would be improper here to expose.

The average number of prisoners in the penitentiary in this city, for several years past, has been nearly six hundred; and with all the care taken to preserve their health, two hundred and seventy nine were in the hospital in 1825, and two hundred and sixty four in 1826, besides those who were under treatment for slight indisposition, which did not require their introduction into the medical ward. The proportions of sick in previous years were about the same, and the average number of deaths for seven years was upwards of six per cent. So that the invasion of disease, and the stroke which terminates human existence, would seem to be more frequent in Jails than among the same number of persons in the ordinary condition of life. The cells of the old penitentiary are small, and badly contrived, and yet many individuals have, for acts of violence committed in the prison, been confined in them for six, nine, and twelve months in succession, generally in irons, and always on a low diet, but no case of mental alienation has ever occurred there. When the mind becomes hardened by a career of vice, ultimately reaching a point of degradation which fits it for the perpetration of those crimes that are punishable under the penal statutes, no fear of exciting its tender sensibilities need be entertained, by its mere abstraction from equally guilty minds, so as to induce either melancholy or madness. All experience proves how difficult it is to make any impression whatever upon the feelings of the benighted and unhappy subjects of criminal punishment.

But I have been insensibly led from the exposition which is most material to be given, and return to submit the promised explanation of what is intended by separate confinement, and what benefits its friends confidently expect will result from its adoption. It should, however, be continually borne in mind, that a penitentiary is designed for the correction and safe keeping of that portion of society, whose unrestrained licentiousness renders them unfit for

the enjoyment of liberty; and so long as men are constituted as we now find them to be, we have no reason to suppose any people will be exempt from the necessity of prisons and penal laws. Whilst, therefore, a sickly sensibility which would indicate impunity for crime, ought carefully to be avoided, the treatment of prisoners should be of such a nature, as to convince them "that the way of the transgressor is hard;" the law, and those who administer its penalties, at the same time regarding offenders not as the subjects of revengeful chastisement, but through exemplary suffering, candidates for amendment of life.

By separate confinement, therefore, it is intended to punish those who will not control their wicked passions and propensities, thereby violating divine and human laws; and moreover to effect this punishment, without terminating the life of the culprit in the midst of his wickedness, or making a mockery of justice by forming such into communities of hardened, and corrupting transgressors, who enjoy each other's society, and contain the very power which thus vainly seeks their restoration, and idly calculates to afford security to the state, from their outrages in future.

In separate confinement, every prisoner is placed beyond the possibility of being made more corrupt by his imprisonment, since the last association of convicts with each other most inevitably yield pernicious consequences in a greater or less degree.

In separate confinement, the prisoners will not know who are undergoing punishment at the same time with themselves, and thus will be afforded one of the greatest protections to such as may happily be enabled to form resolutions to behave well when they are discharged, and be better qualified to do so; because plans of villainy are often formed in jail which the authors carry into operation when at large, not unfrequently engaging the aid of their companions, who are thereby induced to commit new and more heinous offences, and come back to prison, under the heaviest sentences of the law.

In separate confinement, it is especially intended to furnish the criminal with every opportunity which christian duty enjoins, for promoting his restoration to the path of virtue, because seclusion is believed to be an essential ingredient in moral treatment, and with religious instruction and advice superadded, is calculated to achieve more than has ever yet been done, for the miserable tenants of our penitentiaries.

In separate confinement a specific graduation of punishment can be obtained, as surely, and with as much facility as by any other system. Some prisoners may labour—some may be kept without labour—some may have the privilege of books—others may be deprived of it—some may experience total seclusion—others may enjoy such intercourse as shall comport with an entire separation of prisoners.

In separate confinement, the same variety of discipline, for offences committed after convicts are introduced into prison, which any other mode affords, can be obtained, though irregularities must necessarily be less frequent—by denying the refractory individual the benefit of his yard, by taking from him his books, or labour, and lastly in extreme cases, by diminishing his diet to the lowest rate. By the last mean, the most fierce, hardened, & desperate offender can be subdued.

By separate confinement other advantages of an economical nature will result; among these may be mentioned a great reduction of the terms of imprisonment; for instead of from three to twenty years, and sometimes longer, as in many crimes, excepting for every atrocious crime, will answer all the ends of retributive justice, and penitential experience, which on the actual plan, the greatest detention in prison altogether fails to accomplish. Besides this abatement of expense in maintaining prisoners, very few keepers will be required on the new system, and as the females should be entrusted wholly to the custody of suitable individuals of their own sex, their services can of course be secured for less compensation than men. Such of the prisoners as may be employed, will necessarily labour alone, and the kinds of business in which they will be engaged, not being as rough, and exposing, as those now adopted, the expenditure for clothing must be much diminished.

On the score of cost therefore, if that indeed be an object in a work of this magnitude, the solitary plan recommends itself to the regard of the public economist. But the problem